

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. During September and October 1952, a number of regimental commanders were dismissed, and their places were filled by younger officers who enjoyed the full confidence of the Communist Party. The reserve officers school at Sofia is filled with such officers who, upon their graduation, will receive posts as battalion commanders or deputies to regimental commands.
 - 4 2. At the present time approximately 3,100 Soviet officers and noncommissioned officers are in the Bulgarian Army and their commander is Soviet General Tuyan, who, in September 1952, inspected the fortifications along the Turkish border.
 3. Between 8,700 and 8,800 Bulgarian officers have gone through the Soviet Military Academy and technical schools. Instruction in the Bulgarian Army is carried out by means of Soviet textbooks translated into Bulgarian. The training is thorough and good.
 4. The total strength of the Bulgarian Army is currently 230,000 to 240,000 men, in addition to approximately 35,000 Militia troops and 25,000 Border Guards. Militia and police troops are fully equipped with modern light infantry weapons and they have 80 to 85 armored cars as well as several tanks.
 5. The armored units are equipped with 820 to 840 Soviet tanks and a few French Renault and German-made tanks. The armored troops are divided into two divisions; in addition, each Army corps has a motorized mechanized regiment.
 6. The Air Force consists of two air divisions, with a total of five air regiments, the majority being fighter regiments. A parachute division with headquarters in Sofia is not yet complete. The Soviets have agreed to the expansion of the Bulgarian Air force, which they earlier opposed. Bulgaria now has 36 to 38 airfields, 20 of which are occupied by the Soviets. (-4) The best and largest airfields are Balchik, Pleven, Plovdiv, Dobrich, and Lovech.

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7. Motorization of the Bulgarian Army has been going on for a considerable time. The complement of trucks is adequate, part of them coming from the Soviet Union, and the remainder from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The old German trucks are gradually being withdrawn from service.
8. In comparison with prewar days, the Bulgarian artillery arm has been enormously expanded. Unit fire power is at least double what it used to be. Each Army corps includes an artillery brigade, and each division has a well-equipped artillery regiment.

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